



Maryland Department of Housing
and Community Development

LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lt. Governor

KENNETH C. HOLT
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 31, 2015

To: Local Building Officials

From: Edward G. Landon, Director, Maryland Codes Administration

Ref: MBPS - Local Amendments to State Adopted Codes Effective 01/01/2015 & Locally established design criteria per 2015 IRC

The latest Maryland Building Performance Standards (COMAR 05.02.07) became effective on January 01, 2015. Section 05.B gives local jurisdictions authority to amend the adopted codes with some restrictions.

The Regulations also stipulate the following:

- Section 05.B.(4) “Local amendments shall be submitted to the Department”.
- Section 06.B “A local jurisdiction shall implement and enforce the Standards and any local amendments within 6 months of the effective date of any amendments by the Department to this chapter.”

Please advise the Department of your jurisdiction’s plan to amend the adopted codes and the estimated effective date of Standards.

2015 International Residential Code, one of the adopted-by-reference codes, Section R301.2 “Climatic and geographic design criteria” stipulates: “Additional criteria shall be established by the local jurisdiction and set forth in Table R301.2(1)”. In the past, some local jurisdictions have adopted different Seismic Design Category, Ground Snow Load & Wind Speed Values (V-ult & V-asd) from those specified in 2012 IRC.

If your jurisdiction opts to establish additional criteria in addition to those specified in 2015 IRC, please provide the Department with a list of these criteria.

